IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A cold-shrinkable elastic sleeve that is tube shaped, comprising:

an internal semiconductive layer that includes an elastic material and a semiconductive material, the internal semiconductive layer extending in a central portion in a longitudinal direction of a length of the sleeve~~, an inner surface of the internal semiconductive layer defining~~ and having a first innermost surface comprising a substantial part of an ~~inner~~ innermost surface of the sleeve;

a reinforced insulation layer that is formed at least around the internal semiconductive layer to reinforce the internal semiconductive layer and extends ~~on both sides~~ from ends of the internal semiconductive layer along the longitudinal direction of the sleeve;

an external semiconductive layer that includes an elastic material and a semiconductive material, the external semiconductive layer being molded around ~~and extending over a part of~~ the reinforced insulation layer; and

two stress-relief cones, each not including the reinforced insulation layer, one stress-relief cone being formed at each end of the sleeve, each stress-relief cone at a distance from the internal semiconductive layer along the longitudinal direction of the sleeve as intervened by the reinforced insulation layer, ~~and each being covered around a part of an external surface thereof by the reinforced insulation layer, with an external end portion, with respect to the internal semiconductive layer, of an outer periphery of each stress-relief cone being uncovered by the reinforced insulation layer~~ each stress-relief cone having a partially covered surface that is partially covered by the reinforced insulation layer such that the partially

covered surface includes a non-covered area closest to an end of the sleeve and not being covered by the reinforced insulation layer,

wherein ~~an inner~~ the first innermost surface of the internal semiconductive layer, ~~an open inner~~ a second innermost surface of the reinforced insulation layer, and ~~an inner surface of each~~ third innermost surfaces of the stress-relief cones ~~define an inner~~ comprise the innermost surface of the sleeve,

and the external semiconductive layer extends partially over an external surface of the reinforced insulation layer such that a length of the external semiconductive layer in the longitudinal direction of the sleeve is substantially the same as a total length of ~~a region including~~ both the ~~inner~~ innermost surface of the internal semiconductive layer and the ~~open inner~~ second innermost surface of the reinforced insulation layer, ~~thereby leaving a portion of the reinforced insulation layer on each end of the sleeve uncovered by the external semiconductive layer~~ the external semiconductive layer does not cover a substantial area of the external surface of the reinforced insulation layer, and the external semiconductive layer is an outermost layer of the sleeve and is shorter in the longitudinal direction than the reinforced insulation layer.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The cold-shrinkable elastic sleeve according to claim 5, wherein the external semiconductive layer is substantially cylindrical.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The cold-shrinkable elastic sleeve according to claim 5, wherein a thickness of the external semiconductive layer is substantially uniform.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A method of manufacturing a cold-shrinkable type rubber sleeve, comprising:

forming a tube of an internal semiconductive layer with an elastic material and a semiconductive material;

forming a reinforced insulation layer around the internal semiconductive layer to reinforce the internal semiconductive layer;

forming an external semiconductive layer around the reinforced insulation layer with an elastic material and a semiconductive material;

forming a stress-relief cone at each end of the cold-shrinkable type rubber sleeve; and

insulating the external semiconductive layer from both the stress-relief cones.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The cold-shrinkable elastic sleeve according to claim 5,

wherein the cold-shrinkable elastic sleeve is supported on a disassemblable carrier in an expanded state.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The cold-shrinkable elastic sleeve according to claim 10, wherein the disassemblable carrier further comprises:

a disassemble carrier pipe.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The cold-shrinkable elastic sleeve according to claim 5, wherein the elastic material includes one material selected from the group consisting of ethylene-propylene rubber and silicone rubber.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The cold-shrinkable elastic sleeve according to claim 10, wherein the elastic material includes material selected from the group consisting of ethylene-propylene rubber and silicone rubber.

Claims 14-15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A cold-shrinkable elastic sleeve that is tube shaped, comprising:

an internal semiconductive layer that includes an elastic material and a semiconductive material;

a reinforced insulation layer that is formed around the internal semiconductive layer to reinforce the internal semiconductive layer;

an external semiconductive layer that includes an elastic material and a semiconductive material, and is formed around the reinforced insulation layer, the external semiconductive layer being an outermost layer of the sleeve and being shorter in a longitudinal direction of the sleeve than the reinforced insulation layer; and

two stress-relief cones not including the reinforced insulation layer, wherein one stress-relief cone is formed at each end of the cold-shrinkable rubber sleeve, and a part of the reinforced insulation layer extends around each of the stress-relief cone to embed one end of each stress-relief cone therein,

wherein at least a portion of the part of the reinforced insulation layer that extends around each of the stress-relief cones in a direction of a length of the cold-shrinkable elastic sleeve is ~~uncovered~~ not covered by the external semiconductive layer to be exposed, and

wherein the cold-shrinkable type elastic sleeve is supported on a disassemblable carrier in an expanded state.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A cold-shrinkable elastic sleeve that is tube shaped, comprising:

a reinforced insulation layer that is tube shaped, having an internal periphery and an external periphery;

two stress-relief cones provided on respective ends of an internal periphery of the reinforced insulation layer;

an internal semiconductive layer on the ~~inner~~ internal periphery of the reinforced insulation layer between the stress-relief cones at a distance from each of the stress-relief cones in a longitudinal direction ~~of a length~~ of the sleeve;

an external semiconductive layer provided on a central portion of the outer periphery of the reinforced insulation layer, the external semiconductive layer being an outermost layer of the sleeve and being shorter in the longitudinal direction than the reinforced insulation layer; and

two external insulation portions each being constituted by an end of an external portion of the sleeve which is free of the external semiconductive layer.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The cold-shrinkable elastic sleeve according to claim 17, wherein the external semiconductive layer is absent in a region in [[a]] the longitudinal direction ~~of a length of the sleeve~~ between the end of the sleeve and a point on an inner periphery of the sleeve at which the reinforced insulation layer and the stress-relief cone contacts.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The cold-shrinkable elastic sleeve according to claim 18, wherein the external semiconductive layer is molded and has a constant inner diameter and a constant outer diameter, and a uniform thickness.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A cold-shrinkable elastic sleeve that is tube shaped, comprising:

a reinforced insulation layer that is tube shaped, having an internal periphery and an external periphery;

two stress-relief cones provided on respective ends of an internal periphery of the sleeve and having a portion protruding in a longitudinal direction ~~of a length~~ of the sleeve;

an internal semiconductive layer on the inner periphery of the reinforced insulation layer between the stress-relief cones at a distance from each of the stress-relief cones in [[a]] the longitudinal direction ~~of a length of the sleeve~~;

an external semiconductive layer molded on a central portion of the outer periphery of the reinforced insulation layer and having a constant inner diameter and a constant outer diameter, and a uniform thickness, wherein the central portion is a portion ~~inside~~ between, in [[a]] the longitudinal direction ~~of a length~~ of the sleeve, ~~of a point~~ points on an inner periphery of the sleeve at which the reinforced insulation layer and the stress-relief ~~corn contacts~~ cone contact, the external semiconductive layer being an outermost layer of the sleeve and being shorter in the longitudinal direction than the reinforced insulation layer; and

two external insulation portions, each including an end of an external portion of the sleeve which is free of the external semiconductive layer.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): A method of using tube shaped, cold-shrinkable elastic sleeve, the sleeve having a reinforced insulation layer that is tube shaped, having an internal

periphery and an external periphery, two stress-relief cones provided on respective ends of an internal periphery of the reinforced insulation layer, an internal semiconductive layer on the inner periphery of the reinforced insulation layer between the stress-relief cones at a distance from each of the stress-relief cones in a direction of a length of the sleeve, an external semiconductive layer provided on a central portion of the outer periphery of the reinforced insulation layer, and two external insulation portions each being constituted by an end of an external portion of the sleeve which is free of the external semiconductive layer, the method comprising:

wrapping a semiconductive tape around one of the two external insulation portions to bring one of the stress-relief cones and the external semiconductive layer into a conduction state.

Claim 22 (New): A tubular elastic sleeve extending in a longitudinal direction, comprising:

an inner peripheral surface defining a hollow space penetrating through the tubular elastic sleeve in the longitudinal direction, the inner peripheral surface including two first inner peripheral surfaces closest to ends of the tubular elastic sleeve, two second inner peripheral surfaces continuous with the two first inner peripheral surfaces, and a third inner peripheral surface continuous with and between the two second inner peripheral surfaces;

an outer peripheral surface that is uncovered, including two first outer peripheral surfaces closest to ends of the tubular elastic sleeve, two second outer peripheral surfaces continuous with the two first outer peripheral surfaces, and a third outer peripheral surface continuous with and between the two first outer peripheral surfaces;

an internal semiconductive layer including an elastic material and a semiconductive material and having the third inner peripheral surface;

two stress-relief cone layers at a distance from the internal semiconductive layer and having the first inner and outer peripheral surfaces;

a reinforced insulation layer over the internal semiconductive layer and partially over the stress-relief cone layers, the reinforced insulation layer having the second inner and outer peripheral surfaces; and

an external semiconductive layer partially over the reinforced insulation layer and having the third outer peripheral surface, wherein the external semiconductive layer is an outermost layer of the sleeve.